

How to Differentiate Big Brown Bats and Little Brown Bats

Both big brown bats and little brown bats are commonly found in homes, and they typically roost in buildings from mid-April to October. Big brown bats sometimes roost in buildings during the winter months as well. Big brown bats are significantly larger than little brown bats (more than 2x their size!). However, the two species can be difficult to distinguish when found individually, so additional characteristics can aid in differentiation.

Big Brown Bats

Little Brown Bats

Size

4-5 inches from nose to tail

2.5-4 inches from nose to tail

Wingspan is 11-13 inches

Wingspan is 8.5-11 inches



Photo Credit: Vermont Fish and Wildlife

Fur

Long and silky fur

Glossy, short fur on the back

Chocolate brown

Uniformly dark brown back and pale grayish belly



Coloration and Appearance

Wing membranes, ears, feet, and snout are dark brown to black

Broad, hairless nose



Dark brown wing membranes

Feet have long hairs that extend past toes

Small, stubby nose



Guano

Larger than an uncooked grain of rice

Smaller than/about the size of an uncooked grain of rice

